withers under the sunshine of another's prosperity. arid ever springs up most luxuriantly upon decayed fortunes. and the wrecks of blasted reputations. It wounds. with its serpent tongue. the very fairest forms of earthly greatness. The lovelier the flower. it is the more eager to light upon it. Yet it cannot be doubted that. evil as it is. it has counteracted evils which would otherwise have hurried away individuals and society at large into the extremist folly. There is ground for the name which Crabbe represents flattery as giving to it when he calls it " virtue's jealous friend." It is a means of checking the love of fame on the part of individuals. and of the admiration of great men on the part of the public. when these might become excessive. It may be argued. too. that without such a principle operating as a check. the vain. the forward. and the audacious. would. by means of hypocrisy and pretence. delude mankind into the greatest extravagance and follies. It would be vastly better. no doubt. that these pretensions were checked by the good sense and high moral feeling of the community: but in the absence of these. envy has been serviceable in accomplishing the same end. Of use in detecting simulated. it is also of service in increasing real excellence: and it makes the truly great man still greater. inasmuch as it compels him to cultivate habitual circumspection. arid prompts to farther exertion when he might be induced to give himself over to indolence. as the gadfly buzzing round the ox rouses him from his lethargy. when he would recline too long under the shade. It is not unworthy of being observed. that those who have their character fully established rise at last far above the reach of detraction. The great man is like the luminary of day. which. as it circles above the horizon. pales the wax tapers which before shed their feeble light: for a time they cast their blackening shadows: but as he rises higher and higher, all

the shadows vanish. Some persons may be inclined farther to assert, that envy is so far advantageous, inasmuch as, attacking only prosperity, "while misery passed unstung away,"* it so far equalizes the inequalities of external fortune.

There is no one who does not lament the prevalence of evil-speaking under its various forms. Every one has seen its fatal effects, for it reigns among all classes, from our rural districts and retired hamlets, up to the circles of the nobility and the

* Crabbe.